

Message Text

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SUBJECT: RECIPROCITY AND BALANCE OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER
IEA PROGRAM

REF: OECD P 36868

1. WE APPRECIATE MISSION'S REPORT OF MEETING AND PERCEPTION OF POLICY ISSUES RAISED DURING RECENT MEETING IEA HYDROGEN WORKING GROUP IN RESPECT TO RECIPROCITY AND BALANCE OF OBLIGATIONS UNDER IEA PROGRAM.

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2. WE GENERALLY AGREE WITH POSITION OF IEA SECRETARIAT THAT QUID PRO QUO SHARING OF CONTRIBUTIONS AND BENEFITS REPRESENTS KEY ELEMENT OF IEA APPROACH. ABILITY TO "BUY INTO" EXPENSIVE PROJECTS WITH LESS THAN EQUITABLE SUBSCRIPTION PLACES UNFAIR ADDITIONAL BURDEN ON OTHER PARTNERS AND COULD INITIATE TREND OF HAVING A VERY FEW COUNTRIES SUCH AS THE FRG OR THE U.S. FINANCE MOST LARGE PROJECTS WITH OTHERS

CONTRIBUTING ONLY TOKEN AMOUNTS.

HOWEVER, OUR VIEW IS THAT, DESPITE POTENTIAL FOR PRECEDENT, SUCH DECISION SHOULD BE MADE ON CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. WHEN IT CAN BE FORESEEN THAT ISSUES LIKE WHETHER TO COMBINE SOME ACTIVITIES INTO SINGLE ANNEXES WILL ARISE,

U.S. POSITION SHOULD BE DETERMINED PRIOR TO NEGOTIATION SESSION. WHEN ISSUES ARISE IN THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS, HOWEVER, U.S. REPRESENTATIVES SHOULD BE INSTRUCTED TO RESERVE POSITION PENDING DETERMINATION OF U.S. POSITION. WE WILL MAKE THIS CLEAR TO U.S. REPRESENTATIVES FOR FUTURE NEGOTIATING TEAMS.

3. IN CASE OF ELECTROLYTIC HYDROGEN PRODUCTION, RELATIVE MERITS OF SINGLE VS. SEPARATED ANNEXES (OR POSSIBILITY OF COMBINING TWO AND HAVING THIRD AS SEPARATE ANNEX) ARE BEING REVIEWED. COGENT ARGUMENTS CAN BE MADE FOR ALL THREE CASES. U.S. INSISTENCE ON SEPARATE ANNEXES COULD LIMIT PARTICIPATION, PARTICULARLY ON THE PART OF INDUSTRY, BOTH IN THE U.S. AND ABROAD. AND TECHNICAL ARGUMENTS THAT THIRD DEGREE OF TECHNOLOGY DEVELOPMENT WILL BE NEEDED (ESPECIALLY IN ALKALINE WATER AND SOLID POLYMER AREAS), IN CONNECTION WITH SUPPORTING EQUIPMENT AND OVERALL PROCESS DEVELOPMENT, SHOULD NOT BE UNDERESTIMATED.

4. OUR VIEW IS THAT AGREEMENT ON SCOPE AND TENTATIVE COMMITMENTS IN THE THREE AREAS SHOULD BE DEVELOPED AS THREE SEPARATE ANNEXES IN ORDER TO DEVELOP SCOPE OF WORK LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WITH GREATEST PRECISION, WITH CLEAR UNDERSTANDING THAT THE ISSUE OF WHETHER TO COMBINE THEM WILL BE RESOLVED SUBSEQUENTLY, WHEN THE WORKING GROUP NEXT MEETS. IN THIS LATTER REGARD, IT IS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT DEVELOPMENT AND CIRCULATION OF SEPARATE DRAFTS IS CONTEMPLATED WITH REVISED DRAFTS INCORPORATING COMMENTS FROM PARTICIPANTS TO BE FIRST AVAILABLE ABOUT MAY 1977. SUBSEQUENTLY, IN EARLY SUMMER, A MEETING OF SUBGROUP FOR ELECTROLYTIC PRODUCTION WOULD PERMIT RESOLUTION OF QUESTION OF COMBINATION. MAIN CONSIDERATION HERE IS EXPECTED TO BE WHETHER COMMITMENTS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES TO JOIN IN ONE SUB-PROGRAM DEPENDS ON THEIR ABILITY TO OBTAIN BENEFITS OF ACTIVITIES ON RELATED SUB-PROGRAMS.

5. MEETING OF HYDROGEN WORKING PARTY ALSO UNDERSCORES NEED FOR WASHINGTON BRIEFING OF U.S. TECHNICAL REPRESENTATIVES ON POLICY FRAMEWORK FOR WORKING GROUP DELIBERATIONS. WE WILL DO THIS WHEREVER POSSIBLE; WHEN CIRCUMSTANCES MAKE SUCH A BRIEFING IMPRACTICAL AS MIGHT BE THE CASE FOR

INDIVIDUALS TRAVELING DIRECTLY FROM A NATIONAL LABORATORY,
MISSION SHOULD PROVIDE, OR SEEK FROM WASHINGTON, POLICY
GUIDANCE AS NECESSARY.
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